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SIPDIS

STATE ALSO PASS TO USAID
STATE FOR TSUNAMI TASK FORCE 1
USAID/W FOR A/AID ANDREW NATSIOS, JBRAUSE
USEU BRUSSELS FOR USEC
DCHA/OFDA GGOTTLIEB, MMARX, RTHAYER, BDEEMER
AID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA
TSUNAMI RESPONSE MANAGEMENT TEAM

SIPDIS

DCHA/FFP FOR LAUREN LANDIS
DCHA BUREAU FOR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ROGER WINTER
ANE DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MARK WARD
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KATHMANDU FOR OFDA REGIONAL ADVISOR WILLIAM BERGER
GENEVA FOR USAID KYLOH
ROME PASS FODAG
NSC FOR MELINE
CDR USPACOM FO J3/J4/POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [CASC](#) [EAID](#) [AEMR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CE](#) [MV](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA - EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS:
USAID/DART SITREP #5

SUMMARY

1. As of January 10, according to the Center for National Operations (CNO), the earthquake and tsunamis had killed 30,725 people in Sri Lanka. The USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) conducted an assessment trip in Galle and concluded that water supply is not a critical need, but sanitation remains an issue. The USAID/DART is coordinating a prospective temporary shelter program with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). According to the USAID/DART, NGOs and the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) continue to be extremely interested in using U.S. Military air assets to transport relief supplies, and the USAID/DART continues to act as a liaison in this area. To emphasize the importance of psycho-social issues in tsunami relief efforts, the USAID/DART hosted a meeting with the international relief community, NGOs, and Sri Lankan Government agencies to ensure coordination in this area. USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) will provide USD 10,000,000 in immediate disaster relief funding to implement a community-focused, micro-credit scheme that will immediately help families, communities, cooperatives, and small businesses rebuild in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunamis. End summary.

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Death Tolls

2. The CNO, which is responsible for the overall coordination of the relief effort in Sri Lanka, reports that as of January 10 at 1700 hours local time, the earthquake and tsunamis had killed 30,725 people, injured 15,122 residents, displaced 491,008 persons, completely damaged 88,506 houses, and partially damaged 28,854 houses. Currently there are 5,903 persons missing. According to the CNO, there are 523 camps housing displaced persons.

USAID/DART Visit to Galle - January 8

3. On January 8, five Los Angeles County Emergency Team USAID/DART members traveled to Galle District in southern Sri Lanka to meet with the U.S. Marine Logistical Regiment 2 (MLR2) regarding structural assessments in the region. The assessment team met with the U.S. Military in Hikkaduwa near Galle and was advised that the MLR2 was currently involved in rubble removal in Galle and Matara districts, but had not conducted assessments of damaged structures in the area. During the team's visit to Galle, they observed sewer and drainage systems being cleared in Balapitiya, roads and bridges being repaired in Ambalangoda, and buildings being stripped of damaged materials and new walls being constructed in Kosgoda. In the community of Beruwala, where the majority of the fishing fleet was grounded and/or destroyed, the

team observed cranes moving boats from beaches and placing them on flatbed trucks for transport. In general, the team observed community rebuilding in virtually every community and village on the route from Galle to Colombo.

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USAID/DART Assessment Trip to Galle - January 9
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14. On January 9, the USAID/DART Water and Sanitation Officer (WSO), USAID/DART Information Officer (IO), USAID/DART Legislative and Public Affairs Officer (LPAO), and USAID/DART Administrative Assistant traveled to Galle in southern Sri Lanka via U.S. Military transport to assess the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunamis and visit camps operated by USAID/OFDA implementing partners.

15. While in Galle, the USAID/DART WSO and USAID/DART IO met with a Galle District Secretary/Government Agent (DS) and U.N. Development Program (UNDP) representative to discuss the water and sanitation situation in Galle. The DS advised that water was not a problem in Galle, and the Government of Austria had provided water purifying plants. The DS reported that the number of camps in Galle is now down to 100 from an initial 182 camps, and there are now 28,000 people in the camps. The DS stated that most schools will restart during the week of January 10, and those internally displaced persons (IDPs) that are located in schools are being moved to other locations. The DS noted that the Galle local government had received 1,000 tents from Colombo that will serve as shelter for those people who must be relocated from camps that are in schools. The DS said that the Galle local government is trying to establish temporary camps in public buildings or abandoned school buildings, and displaced persons will be provided with dry rations and kitchen utensils until they can be provided with permanent housing.

16. The DS noted that at the present, sanitation is not a major problem, but a permanent solution will be necessary in the near future. The GOSL is providing one set of latrines (one male, one female) for every 25 people in camps. The GOSL is also building latrines and has already started construction with the assistance of the Indian Army.

17. According to the DS, in general, the main problem in Galle is resettling IDPs, and trying to restore basic services. The Galle local government is currently conducting a survey of residents in Galle to identify the most important needs. In addition, in conjunction with the Urban Development Authority, the Galle local government is attempting to plan urban areas for the future.

18. According to the DS, the GOSL has decided not to construct any buildings within 100 meters of the coast. In lowland areas, buildings will have to be at least one meter above sea level. According to the DS, since land is limited, the GOSL prefers that any new buildings be at least three stories high.

19. Based upon the USAID/WSO's observations in Galle and through discussions with various local authorities, water supply is not a critical need. However, sanitation is still an issue, and human waste and solid waste removal are a concern. The USAID/DART will continue to focus upon sanitation and the rehabilitation of existing solid waste systems, construction of new solid waste systems, and pumping of sewage facilities. The USAID/DART will continue to find implementing partners to work in these areas, and if possible combine relief activities in this sector with cash-for-work.

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USAID/DART Visit to Sri Lankan Red Cross Camps
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10. On January 9, the USAID/DART WSO and USAID/DART IO visited the Sri Pushparama Malwenna Temple near Hikkaduwa north of Galle. The Malwenna Temple is currently serving as an IDP camp, and 187 families are registered at the camp. Many registered IDPs live outside the camp but receive assistance from the camp. The USAID/DART members visited the camp just following a distribution of USAID/OFDA emergency relief supplies and was advised by an American Red Cross (ARC) representative that each of the 187 families received two water containers and one hygiene kit (USAID/OFDA emergency relief supplies) as well as two blankets and one kitchen set (both items provided by the Dutch Red

Cross), which will serve a family of five. This was a one-time distribution of relief supplies. The ARC representative also stated the IDPs were requesting tents.

11. During this visit, the USAID/DART WSO examined the water and sanitation situation at the camp. There were 250 people residing at the camps, but only two out of four available latrines were usable. [Note. According to International Sphere Minimum Standards, there should be 13 latrines for 250 people. End Note.] Water was available at two water points, and the USAID/DART WSO tested the water and reported that it was adequately chlorinated.

12. The USAID/DART WSO and USAID/DART IO also visited a camp at Kovilagodella Temple in Mahamodera, Galle. The camp initially housed 110 families, but now only 38 families remain. The Sri Lankan Red Cross (SRC), in conjunction with the Water Board, is providing water to the camp. A camp manager noted that cooked food is provided to the families that reside at the camp, and dry rations are provided to those who come to the camp for relief assistance.

USAID/DART Coordination with the U.S. Military and
NGOs

13. Between January 9 and 10, a USAID/DART Military Liaison Officer (MLO) coordinated helicopter transport with the U.S. Military for U.S. Senators and Congressmen as well as the transport of relief supplies for Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), Mercy Corps, and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO). According to the USAID/DART MLO, to date, the U.S. Military, via HH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, has transported 17 metric tons (MT) of emergency relief supplies.

14. According to the USAID/DART, NGOs and the GOSL continue to be extremely interested in using U.S. Military air assets to transport relief supplies, and the USAID/DART continues to coordinate effectively with NGOs, the GOSL, and the U.S. Military in this area. According to the USAID/DART, currently, there is a lull in air transport needs, but in the next few days this will change. USAID/OFDA expects to transport 1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting, and the GOSL is planning to move many of the supplies donated from around the world.

Protection

15. On January 9 the USAID/DART, in conjunction with USAID/Colombo, hosted a meeting of international and national relief organizations and GOSL authorities to address general principles and practicalities of integrating a psycho-social focus into tsunami relief efforts. The meeting was attended by more than 20 NGOs and governmental agencies, including representatives from the Ministry of Health (MOH), National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), and the Psycho-social desk of the CNO.

16. During the meeting two presentations were made: the first presentation was an overview of the psychological impact of the tsunami, and presenters described the emotions of grief, hopelessness, frustration and confusion that tsunami victims may be feeling. The presentation considered psycho-social program elements that humanitarian agencies are encouraged to incorporate in their ongoing relief operations. The second presentation was focused upon the trafficking of persons and children, which is a potential risk to disaster victims, who are living in communities where normal systems of protection may have been weakened or disrupted.

17. During a discussion period, many agencies spoke about ongoing coordination efforts among agencies previously working in the psycho-social sphere related to the civil war in Sri Lanka. The Psycho-social Forum, a consortium of agencies working in the field, stated that four working groups (for psycho-social well-being, mental health, protection and violence, and needs assessment) have been established and are open for participation and networking. Save the Children-United Kingdom (SC-UK) stated that they have been working in coordination with the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the NCPA to compile a registration list of all orphaned children in disaster affected zones. At present, the list is approximately 50 percent complete.

118. Representatives of the Psycho-social Desk at the CNO reported that they have established a desk for the coordination of psycho-social efforts in the ongoing disaster response. Compiled resources and links are available to all agencies via the CNO website. A representative of the MOH stated that GOSL mental health workers from around the county have been dispatched to damage-affected areas to support their colleagues in providing mental health coordination and assistance to victims. The NCPA informed the meeting participants about existing training modules and manuals they have developed to facilitate training for agencies working in fields of child protection and anti-trafficking.

119. At the conclusion of the meeting, USAID representatives restated to agencies that they were not creating a secondary coordinating structure in this area of activity. Instead, USAID hoped to highlight these critical issues for humanitarian organizations to ensure that links are established between the international relief community, Sri Lankan governmental agencies, and NGOs that specialize in these areas of work.

Shelter

120. On January 10, the USAID/DART met with NGOs to coordinate various aspects of the prospective temporary shelter program. This was the first of what will become a weekly coordination meeting. The group agreed that USAID-funded NGOs will agree on model size with some flexibility for shelter dimensions, materials, and flooring. Common procurement was also discussed, and a decision will be forthcoming. Coordination on shelter items will prevent disparities in the provision of shelter items and will facilitate logistical support.

Health

121. From January 8 to 9, a member of the USAID/OFDA DART, who is a physician with the Los Angeles County Emergency Team, traveled to Jaffna in northwestern Sri Lanka with the Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP) reconnaissance team from the U.S. Embassy's Defense Attach's Office. The team visited Point Pedro at the most northern tip of Sri Lanka. According to the USAID/DART officer, 30 of 31 camps in Jaffna are located in Point Pedro, and as of January 5, 2,650 individuals have died. The number of IDPs has decreased to 9,600 as of January 9 from 14,764 on January 2. The total resident population is 36,000. As of January 2, there were 125 latrines, 103 permanent and 22 temporary, in the camps. As of January 5, there were four cases of fever and four cases of chickenpox in the camps.

122. According to the USAID/DART officer, the Point Pedro Base Hospital is a 264 bed hospital with minimal staffing. The hospital is functioning, but it has been impacted by the large number of IDP camps located in close proximity to the hospital.

123. The USAID/DART officer also visited Jaffna Teaching Hospital, a 1,000 bed regional teaching hospital and referral center. The USAID/DART officer noted that the hospital is quote extremely busy end quote and cannot refuse patients, so at any given time there may be up to 1,500 patients quote sleeping under the beds end quote. The USAID/DART officer noted that the MEDCAP team will probably be based at this hospital.

USAID/OFDA Programs: Reviving and Upgrading Economic Livelihoods in Tsunami-Impacted Areas of Sri Lanka

124. USAID/OFDA will provide USD 10,000,000 in immediate disaster relief funding to implement a dynamic, community-focused, micro-credit/stimulus scheme that will immediately help families, communities, cooperatives, and small businesses rebuild in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunamis. The objective is to quickly stimulate

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economic growth and community restoration, thereby accelerating the recovery. The scheme will use a strategic approach to initially introduce cash-for-work (three months), followed by micro-finance and

targeted financing for small and medium businesses. Community participation and ownership will be a hallmark of this approach, through the use of 13 experienced Sri Lankan financial NGOs who are already active in the affected areas.

125. The project will focus on 30,000 families who lost their livelihoods, working collaboratively with village cooperative societies and networks. Areas of emphasis will include: the fishing industry, small coastal retailers, small to medium businesses that are labor intensive, women's cooperatives, and small support services for the tourist industry. This approach should help to foster a foundation for longer-term sustainable development. This approach will not only complement other ongoing relief activities, (e.g. shelter development, cash-for-work, etc.), but it will also provide an entry point for a longer-term, strategic USAID mission response.

USAID/DART Staffing

126. As of January 11, there are 17 members of the USAID/DART in Sri Lanka, including two Foreign Service Nationals from USAID/Kathmandu. Of the 17 USAID/DART members, one individual is in Galle and another team member is in Male, Maldives.

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